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ABSTRACT

A practical guide to conducting and reporting graduate-level research projects outlines each step in the research process and discusses both practical and theoretical considerations. Chapter 1 addresses idea and topic development. Chapter 2 discusses the purposes, procedures, and sources for literature reviews and searches. In chapter 3, the distinction is made between qualitative and quantitative research, and the development of research questions and hypotheses is examined in detail. Types of research design and design problem-solving are explained in chapter 4. Chapter 5 discusses issues related to instrumentation, including selection or development of an instrument, reliability and validity, item analysis, special problems, and pilot testing. Sampling techniques and data collection methods are examined in the subsequent chapter, and chapter 7 describes a variety of statistical analyses and briefly discusses issues related to the use of statistics. Chapter 8 focuses on practical use of computers, both microcomputers and mainframes, in conducting research and data analysis. Steps in the process of writing the final report are offered in chapter 9, and in the final chapter, suggestions for the final report presentation are given. Numerous checklists and worksheets are included. The material is designed to be accompanied by a microcomputer diskette, and the book includes a "select-state" personal computer diskette. Each chapter contains separate references. (MSE)

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